

WATER Center
101 E. Pawnee
Wichita, KS 67211
Open 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on
Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
Closed Holidays
(316) 337-9262
Fax (316) 337-9266
www.wichita.gov/CityOffices/Environmental/WATERCenter/



Happenings H₂O Observations

July - September 2007

A Quarterly Publication of the WATER Center

Volume 2, Issue 3

What's Inside?

- **SUMMER PROGRAMS!**
- **New Display by Intern**
- **Senior Wednesday**
- **Meetings and Events**

What's New?

Groundwater Foundation Donation

The Groundwater Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to educating and motivating people to care for and about groundwater, made a generous donation of materials to the WATER Center.

The new materials include books, curriculum activity guides, water festival activities, and aquifer kits. All of the materials have been added to the WATER Center's Groundwater Discovery Box and are available for check out.



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The WATER Center

is located in:

Herman Hill Park

Open daily sunrise to sunset

18-hole disc golf course

Accessible trails

Playground equipment

Picnic areas

Skateboarding, swimming and
fishing are prohibited

Wetland Critter Checklist

The cleaned groundwater from the WATER Center's treatment plant supports an ever-growing, diverse habitat.

As the groundwater leaves the Center's treatment building, it winds its way through pipes, fountains, pumps and aquariums. But before joining the Arkansas River, the water must meander through the Herman Hill Park Creek.

Constructed in 2003, the artificial creek and wetlands are lined with a rubber liner and naturalized with limestone rocks.

This habitat is only four years old?

Yes! The creek and wetlands are only as old as the WATER Center. Each year the habitat matures and new species of plants and animals are attracted to the growing ecosystem.

Just Fledged

A red-tail hawk is one of the many animals to have been born and raised in Herman Hill Park this spring.

Visitors and staff have watched a mated pair of red-tail hawks very closely over the past few months.



Early in the year, the pair chose a pine tree growing on the tallest hill in the park. The hawks quickly began building a large stick nest on the top branches of the old tree.

What creatures are found in the Herman Hill Park creek and wetlands?

Reptiles

- ❑ Red-eared Slider
- ❑ Common Snapping Turtle
- ❑ Painted Turtle
- ❑ Spiny Softshell Turtle
- ❑ Northern Water Snake

Mammals

- ❑ Muskrat
- ❑ Beaver (in winter)
- ❑ Fox Squirrel
- ❑ Cottontail Rabbit
- ❑ Raccoon
- ❑ Opossum

Fish

- ❑ Black Buffalo
- ❑ Green Sunfish
- ❑ Bluegill
- ❑ Goldfish
- ❑ Fathead Minnow
- ❑ Emerald Shiner
- ❑ Grass Carp

Birds

- ❑ Green-backed Heron
- ❑ Great Blue Heron
- ❑ Canada Goose
- ❑ Mallard
- ❑ Wood Duck
- ❑ Red-tail Hawk
- ❑ Bald Eagle (in winter)
- ❑ Great Horned Owl
- ❑ House Sparrow
- ❑ Warbling Vireo
- ❑ Eastern Kingbird
- ❑ Western Kingbird
- ❑ Mourning Dove
- ❑ American Robin
- ❑ Barn Swallow
- ❑ American Crow
- ❑ Common Grackle
- ❑ Starling
- ❑ Red-winged Blackbird



In June, a high-pitched, repeating cry could be heard in the park. Hidden in the tree branches was the park's newest resident -- the mated pair of hawks had successfully fledged one chick.

Now mid-summer, the fledgling is going through the noisy process of weaning. In a few short weeks it will be hunting on its own and be independent of its parents.

Red-tail hawks mate for life and typically reuse and repair their old nests. Look for these beautiful birds to return to the park next spring.

YOUTH PROGRAM REGISTRATION

~ Registration Will Close 5 Days Before the Program Date~

Participant Name: _____ Circle one: M F

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: Day: _____ Evening: _____

E-mail: _____

Please Check one: ☒ Over 18 years old ☐ Under 18, what age: _____

Parent/Leader Name: _____

I PLAN TO ATTEND THESE PROGRAMS:

DATE	PROGRAM	TIME	AGE	COST
July 12	City Safari	10-11 AM	Ages 4-7	\$2
July 13	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
July 17	Junior Biologist	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
July 19	Sandbar Treasures	9-11 AM	Ages 8-18	FULL
July 27	Youth Volunteer Day	1-3 PM	Ages 8-15	Free
August 2	Magnificent Mussels	1-3 PM	Ages 8-12	\$2
August 9	Just Add Water (And Sun)	1-3 PM	Ages 8-18	FULL
September 4	Water Olympics	2-4 PM	Ages 8-15	\$2

REGISTRATION COMPLETION:

Program Fee Totals _____ Make check payable to the **WATER Center**.

Mail Registration and Fees to: **PROGRAMS, WATER Center,**
101 E. Pawnee, Wichita, KS 67211
Or Fax: 316-337-9266



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Program Schedule

FISH FEEDINGS

Every
Monday and Friday
3:00 PM

New Display

WSU Intern, Sierra Gonzales, completed a number of projects over the 2006-2007 school year.

The new exhibit in the classroom is her final project – a three-dimensional bulletin board display focusing on Rain Gardens. Be sure to walk down the hall and check it out.

Thanks to Sierra for all her time and talent that she donated over the past school year!

Meetings & Events

Visitors are welcome to attend any of the following meetings held each month at the WATER Center.

July

9th Arkansas River Coalition Board Meeting
6:00-9:30 PM

11th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

18th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

August

1st District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

8th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

September

5th District III Advisory Board 6:30-9:30 PM

10th Arkansas River Coalition Board Meeting
6:00-9:00 PM

12th Wichita Area Paddlers
6:30-9:00 PM

Youth Events

YOUTH VOLUNTEER DAYS

Pre-Registration Required ~ Space is Limited

1:00 – 3:00 PM

Ages 8-15 Free

July 13th

Fountain Cleaning

Over time, algae, snail shells and other material builds up on the bottom of the WATER Center fountains. Help the staff drain and wash out the fountain pools.

Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

July 27th

Habitat Fix-It

The logs in the creek ponds provide important shelter for fish and insects. Over time, these branches get pushed around. Help staff recreate this habitat.

Wear clothes and shoes that can get wet.

FISH TALES

Second Tuesday of the Month

10:00 AM

Ages 2-6, Free

No registration needed

Join the WATER Center staff for story time and a nature surprise! This program is designed for Pre-K aged children, but all are welcome to attend.

JULY 10TH

“Little Beaver and The Echo”

by Amy MacDonald

AUGUST 14TH

“The Pig in the Pond” by Martin Waddell

SEPTEMBER 11TH

“What’s It Like to Be a Fish?”

by Wendy Pfeffer

OCTOBER 9TH

“Trout, Trout, Trout (A Fish Chant)”

by April Pulley Sayer

~Senior Wednesdays~

Adults 50+

~

No Registration Required

NO PROGRAM

Wednesday, July 4th

WETLAND BUFFET

Wednesday, August 1st

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Feeling Brave? Learn recipes and sample cuisine made from wetlands plants.

TASTER’S CHOICE

Wednesday, September 5th

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Explore the world of tap water taste. Take the taster’s challenge!

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

Wednesday, October 3rd

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Join the international community in a day of water sampling. Perform simple chemical tests on water collected from the Arkansas River.

RIVER HISTORY

Wednesday, November 7th

1:30 – 3:00 PM, Free

Learn local lore about the Arkansas River. View the video: *The Arkansas River* from the Rivers of North America Series.

Ripple Effects

“For every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

~ Sir Isaac Newton

Every Drop Counts...

Our stormwater drains are designed to get water off the streets as quickly as possible. Hold back some of that water for use in your yard by creating a rain garden. Rain gardens or “water-spout” gardens use the water that flows off of your home’s roof. By planting a rain garden, you will help improve the water quality of our rivers and streams.

~ Libby and Kay D.

Youth Programs

JULY

CITY SAFARI

Thursday, July 12th, 10-11 AM

Ages 4-7, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Be an urban expolorer! How do the city creatures get their water? We will make a nature journal and go on a wildlife safari in Herman Hill Park.



JUNIOR BIOLOGIST

Tuesday, July 17th, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Collect creatures from the WATER Center Creek. What are they? Be a biologist and follow the clues to the water quality mystery.

SANDBAR TREASURES

Thursday, July 19th, 9-11 PM

Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Beachcombing happens near the ocean, but amazing treasures can be found along the Arkansas River sandbars. This program will be cancelled if the water level is too high.)

AUGUST

MAGNIFICENT MUSSELS

Thursday, August 2nd, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

What are mussels? How do they eat? Do they move? Investigate this amazing creature and make a craft using mussel shells.

JUST ADD WATER (AND SUN)

Thursday, August 9th, 1-3 PM

Ages 8-18, Fee: \$2.00

Pre-registration required

Water needed to create this newsletter. Using water from the creek, we will make our own paper that you can take home and make grow!

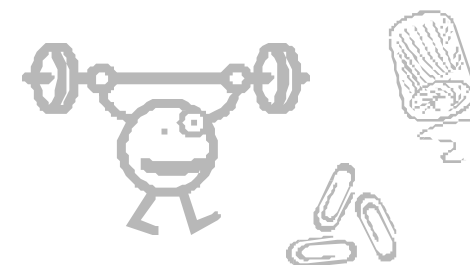
SEPTEMBER

WATER OLYMPICS

Tuesday, September 4th, 2-4 PM

Ages 8-12, Fee: \$2.00

Can you make metal float? Walk water down a string? Come compete your water droplet in some strange “events” for at wild Water Olympics.



The WATER Center is a project of the City of Wichita's Department of Environmental Services

“Protecting Health – Preserving the Environment”

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Water Resources Analyst



A Ride Through The Storm Drain

Meet “Droplet” and take ride through the stormwater system. Unlike wastewater from our home, stormwater is not treated before entering creeks, rivers and lakes.

This video was produced by the Salt Lake County Stormwater Coalition



Did You Know?
50% of the water used in the summer is for your lawn?

Water the lawn and garden at dusk when the day is cool, watering during the heat of the day can account for up to 60% evaporation loss.